157 11580 Rabbit Hash Road SE

Elizabeth, IN 47117

August/23, 1999 '99 SEP 14 MO:13

Secretary Dan Glickman US Department of Agriculture 14th and Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20250



Dear Secretary Glickman:

We were surprised and disturbed to read in the September issue of Consumer Reports that genetically altered soy and corn products are appearing in a large number of consumer food products without any identifying labels to enable consumers to choose whether or not to consume such foods.

Such everyday items as breakfast cereal, fruit juice, vegetable burgers and corn chips, often consumed by children and assumed by purchasers to be wholesome and natural, now contain genetically modified ingredients. These companies are required to label GM foods for sale in Europe. Why are Americans not given the same information? We believe that such products should be clearly labeled as containing genetically modified ingredients so that consumers can choose whether or not to buy them. It is not fair that we are denied this important choice.

We are also concerned that the widepsread introduction of genetically modified crops into production without tests to determine long-term environmental effects is dangerous. Once a problem surfaces, such as the potential poisoning of beneficial insects(as has recently been found with GM rapeseed and Bt corn), it may be too late to prevent the gene from spreading to other plants in the environment.

We urge the USDA to take a more active role in the oversight and regulation of the GM food industry for the protection of the consumer and the environment.

Sincerely, Mary Illan Clinton

Mary Ellen Clinton

Diana Kaye

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Mary Ellen Clinton/ Diana Kaye 11580 Rabbit Hash Road SE Elizabeth, IN 47117





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Washington, DC 20250

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